



USDC SDNY  
DOCUMENT  
ELECTRONICALLY FILED  
DOC #:  
DATE FILED: 1-8-15

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney  
Southern District of New York

United States District Courthouse  
300 Quarropas Street  
White Plains, New York 10601

January 8, 2015

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Vincent Briccetti  
United States District Judge  
Southern District of New York  
The Honorable Charles L. Brieant Jr. Federal Building and Courthouse  
300 Quarropas Street  
White Plains, New York 10601-4150

APPLICATION GRANTED  
SO ORDERED:

Vincent L. Briccetti, U.S.D.J.

Dated: 1/8/15  
White Plains, NY

Re: *United States v. Michael Duch*,  
14 Cr. 303 (VB)

Dear Judge Briccetti:

The Government writes respectfully to request that the plea in this case be unsealed.

On December 10, 2014, Michael Duch, the defendant, pled guilty before Your Honor pursuant to a cooperation agreement. In light of the nature of the plea, this Court sealed the minutes of that plea hearing.

The Government is presently considering calling Duch as a witness in *United States v. Ross William Ulbricht*, 14 Cr. 68 (KBF), and, in accord with usual practice in this district, plans to disclose certain materials pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 26.2, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3500, and *Giglio v. United States*, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), and its progeny, commonly referred to as "3500 material," in advance of Duch's testimony. The minutes of Duch's plea would be among the 3500 material. Accordingly, the Government respectfully requests that the minutes of Duch's plea proceeding be unsealed so that the Government may disclose it to Ulbricht as part of Duch's 3500 material.

Because this letter refers to a proceeding that is under seal, the Government will not file it publicly until and unless this Court endorses the letter.

Hon. Vincent Briccetti  
January 8, 2015  
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Please feel free to contact me with any questions or issues.

Respectfully submitted,

PREET BHARARA  
United States Attorney

Michael D.

Maimin

Digitally signed by Michael D. Maimin  
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